

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site**

Report Number: 5

Date: August 15, 2012

Report Period: April 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Site: San Jacinto River Waste Pits (SJRW), Harris County, Texas

Grant Recipient: Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)

Recipient Group Representative: Scott Jones, Environmental Policy and Outreach Specialist

Technical Advisor: Jennifer Ronk and Kali Frost, Houston Advanced Research Center, The Woodlands, Texas

Progress Achieved:

- HARC and GBF participated in the Houston Ship Channel/San Jacinto River Total Maximum Daily Load meeting on April 4, 2012. The CAC meetings are facilitated by Donn Walters of U.S. EPA and Snehal Patel of the Harris County Attorney's Office.
- HARC and GBF participated in the SJRW Community Awareness Committee (CAC) meetings on May 16, 2012. The CAC meetings are facilitated by Donn Walters of U.S. EPA.
- NOTE: On May 31, 2012 Texans Together and the San Jacinto produced a press release and held a press conference on the results of Dr. Stephen King's analyses of independent sediment and fish tissue sampling. The press release stated in effect that since the samples contained measurable concentrations of dioxins and furans, it suggested that the waste pits are still a source of dioxin and furan contamination of the San Jacinto River even after the TCRA cap had been completed in July 2011. Texans Together further opined, that as a result of this data, that wading, swimming, fishing, crabbing, and collecting oysters and clams should be banned in the proximity of the SJRW and that the consumption of fish, crabs, oysters, and clams caught in proximity to the SJRW among vulnerable or at-risk individuals, such as pregnant women, infants, children, the elderly, persons with impaired liver function, and among individuals with an impaired immune system be prohibited. GBF does not agree with Texans Together's methods nor can we share their conclusions as stated in their press release or press conference. Based on this development, as well as the fact that Texans Together has embarked on collecting data outside of the Superfund process, it is clear that GBF will not be able to collaborate with them as originally planned and stated in our grant application. As a result, GBF will now finalize plans to work solely with HARC on outreach. We will still notify both Texans Together and San Jacinto River Coalition of our meetings and findings. We will consider whether it is advantageous to participate in future San Jacinto River Coalition/Texans Together meetings.
- EPA released some of the RI/FS technical documents to HARC in late May and June. HARC is reviewing them and developing their findings. We will post HARC's findings on GBF's SJRW webpage (http://galvbay.org/advocacy_sjrw.html) as soon as possible.
- HARC and GBF participated in the June 14, 2012 San Jacinto River Coalition meeting at Highlands, Texas. HARC and GBF made observations and provided clarifications to statements made by Texans Together and San Jacinto River Coalition members concerning findings to date.



• GBF continued to work with HARC on outreach plans. In addition to GBF's SJRWP webpage, outreach will include print, TV, and radio media, electronic newsletter, and a 1-page summary of the process and public involvement opportunities. Finally, GBF and HARC are planning to hold a public meeting this year after the next public EPA CEI meeting. We are seeking a target date for the fall meeting from EPA in order that we can plan ours.

Materials Produced this Quarter:

• GBF updated the SJRWP webpage at http://galvbay.org/advocacy_sjrwp.html. HARC is reviewing EPA RI/FS documents and will complete their findings so that GBF can post them.

Difficulties Encountered:

• GBF came up with a final resolution to possible collaborative efforts with Texans Together. Given the tactics utilized by Texans Together, GBF will no longer be able to directly collaborate on outreach pieces and dissemination. As noted above, we will notify their members of our meetings.

Environmental Results Progress Achieved (Outputs/Outcomes):

• GBF updated the SJRWP webpage at http://galvbay.org/advocacy_sjrwp.html with available information.

Activity Anticipated in Next Quarter:

• Draft outreach pieces to complement webpage, e.g. electronic newsletter, 1-page summary of cleanup progress.

• GBF and HARC will continue to participate in CAC meetings.

• GBF and HARC will plan a public meeting this year that will take place after the next U.S. EPA Public Meeting. It is designed to inform the public of TCRA and RI/FS activities to date and a review of the public data and information provided through the U.S. EPA.